

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04924 011654Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9406

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL STRIKE ATHENS AREA CONCLUDES

REF: ATHENS 4759

1. INDUSTRIAL STRIKE AT "ESKIMO" FACTORY (REFTEL TERMINATED ON JUNE 27 AND THOSE STRIKING WORKERS WHO HAD "OCCUPIED" THE PLANT DEPARTED THE PREMISES. ONE KEY ELEMENT IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE IMPASSE WAS THE DECISION OF MAJORITY OF THE STRIKERS TO APPOINT A NEW COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT THEM. THIS ACTION HAD THE EFFECT OF REMOVING THE EXTREMIST ELEMENTS FROM THE STRIKE LEADERSHIP AND PRECLUDED A SPOKESMAN ROLE FOR THEM. A SECOND DECISIVE FACTOR WAS THE FORCEFUL MANNER IN WHICH BOTH SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE) KARAKITSOS AND MINISTER OF LABOR LASKARIS EXERCISED THEIR GOOD OFFICES IN A MEDIATION CAPACITY.

2. IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE STRIKE'S CONCLUSION, THE GSEE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION FOR THE UNDERSTANDING AND

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 04924 011654Z

DISCIPLINE DEMONSTRATED ON THE PART OF MOST WORKERS IN

CONTRAST WITH THE "EXTREMISTS" WHO, IN THE WORDS OF THE GSEE, "DO NOT PROMOTE THE INTERESTS AND LEGITIMATE ASPIRATION OF THE WORKERS." THE GSEE ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO ASSERTED THAT EXTREMISTS CREATE CONFUSION WHICH ACTS AS A BLOW AGAINST DEMOCRATIC NORMALCY AND TRADE UNION FREEDOMS. THE GSEE URGED ALL WORKERS BOTH TO OPPOSE ANY ACTIVITY IN CONFLICT WITH THE HONEST AIMS OF LABOR AND TO NEUTRALIZE EXTREMIST ELEMENTS.

3. THE GSEE STATEMENT TRACKS CLOSELY BOTH IN MOOD AND SUBSTANCE WITH PREVIOUS STATEMENTS BY THE LABOR MINISTER AND THE GOG PRESS SPOKESMAN ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS STRIKE. (SEE REFTTEL) TAKEN TOGETHER, THEY APPEAR TO REFLECT A STRONG OFFICIAL INTEREST IN PRECLUDING EXTREMIST ELEMENTS FROM "GETTING A FOOT" IN THE LABOR SECTOR.
KUBISCH

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